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N. Miss. conference offers refreshment

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Come and Be Refreshed was the theme of the North Mississippi Evangelism Conference on Sept. 20 at the West Heights Church, Pontotoc. For those attending the conference, the content interpreted the theme.

"We offered the conference because we knew that the State Evangelism Conference was on the coast earlier this year and a lot of people from this part of the state couldn't make it," said Don Lum, director of the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"Our goal was to give local pastors a chance to receive inspiration and encouragement. It also gave church members a chance to participate, too. The conference gave so many people a chance to be involved. While the conference was mostly for those in northeast Mississippi, we did have people come from the Delta and even as far away as Hattiesburg."

Speakers for the event included Ergun Caner, professor at Liberty University, in Lynchburg, Va.; James Lewis, pastor of Desoto Hills Church in Southaven; Sammy Gilbreath, director of the Evangelism Department of Alabama Baptist Convention in Montgomery; and Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans.

Music was led by Billy Nelson, a well-known lay music evangelist from northeast Mississippi.

Caner opened the conference identifying with the theme of the event. "Those who serve the Lord the most get to rest the least," he said. Preaching from Galatians 6:9 and following, Caner said, "It seems we live in a perpetual source of trouble. Paul found a way to deal with that trouble and says, 'No one is going to bug me any more.'"

Caner encouraged the group to not grow weary. "Not only did Paul not hide his infirmity, he announced it," he said. "Never fake it. Your scars tell your story." Caner continued by stating that the conflicts people face cause them to seek God's wisdom. "What we go through," Caner said, "is what they did to Jesus. Your pain is His power."

Lewis used Ephesians 3 as his text. "When Paul begins this with 'I, Paul,' he is sharing his name because of his spiritual clout," Lewis said. "Be imitators of me." Lewis continued by stating that in order to have spiritual clout Christians must stay involved, in tune; insistent; insufficient; and intrigued. "As Christians, we can get too big for our britches," Lewis said. "Grace gets us and keeps us. We have to have a burning passion for the One we preach about."

Gilbreath used Luke 4:42 as his text, sharing of how Jesus went to a solitary place for refreshment. "Want to get refreshed?" Gilbreath asked. "Then get involved with the priority of Jesus' purpose." With tongue-in-cheek, Gilbreath



OFFERING ENCOURAGEMENT — Sammy Gilbreath, director of the Evangelism Department at the Alabama Baptist Convention, drives home a point during the North Mississippi Evangelism Conference Sept. 20 in Pontotoc. (Photo by Tony Martin)

said that some churches get nervous about reaching those "other people." "We want lost people to act like saved people whenever saved people don't act like saved people," he said. Gilbreath continued by talking about the mindset of, "We've never done it that way before."

"People will say, 'we'll form a committee and discuss it.' Why can't we just do like the disciples and say, 'Because you said so, Jesus, we'll do it?'"

After dinner hosted by West Heights Church and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Luter presented the closing message. Luter, using Matthew 9:35-38 as his text, told the attendees, "The question is, 'What would Jesus do?' Who do we need to consult when it comes to reaching our society? Jesus had a word for every circumstance and situation. Well, Jesus would be concerned for our society, because He was concerned for people. He would be compassionate. He would send out a challenge."

"Pray to the Lord of the harvest," Luter said. "The challenge isn't to the government — the president, mayor, judges, or colleges — the challenge is to the church, the body of Christ. We have to get out of our huddle and face the enemy."

During the conference, R.J. Wildmon was recognized for his service as an evangelist. Wildmon was not present due to illness. According to P.J. Scott, interim pastor at First Church, Batesville,

Wildmon, 84, baptized his wife and himself at Glendale Church, New Albany. Wildmon entered full-time evangelism and has preached many meetings all over northern Mississippi. Wildmon was able over the years to help pastors with financial and other needs.

When asked about the evangelism conference itself, Scott said, "The meeting was excellent. The music was outstanding. The atmosphere was good and the timing was what it needed to be. It met a great need for pastors in the area."

"We hope to be able to do more of these regional meetings," said Lum.

Next year's State Evangelism Conference will be Jan. 30-31, at Northcrest Church, Meridian. For more information about the conferences or the work of the Evangelism Department, contact Lum at (601) 292-3278 or outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651 ext. 278, or email at dlum@mbcb.org.

Study: 70% of high schoolers are virgins

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — They may live in a sexually charged culture that essentially encourages them to have sex, but nearly 70% of high school-age teens are virgins, according to a new study of the nation's sexual habits.

Published in the October issue of the *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, the study surveyed 820 adolescents nationwide via the Internet, a confidential method the researchers say is more likely to produce honest answers compared to a face-to-face or phone interview. Parents had to give consent.

The study found that 69.7% of boys and 68.4% of girls ages 16-17 have never had intercourse. Among 14-15 year olds, the percentage is even higher — 90.1% for boys and 87.6% for girls.

Richard Ross, cofounder of the True Love Waits abstinence movement, told Baptist Press the study proves that abstinence messages can and do work.

"Less than a third of high schoolers have ever had sex, and that includes large numbers who only have had sex once," said Ross, assistant professor of student ministry at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

"Also, consider that more than 60% of sexually experienced teenagers regret what they have done [according to data from the National

Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy]. Combining those figures reveals that only a small segment of American teenagers are committed to a sexual lifestyle.

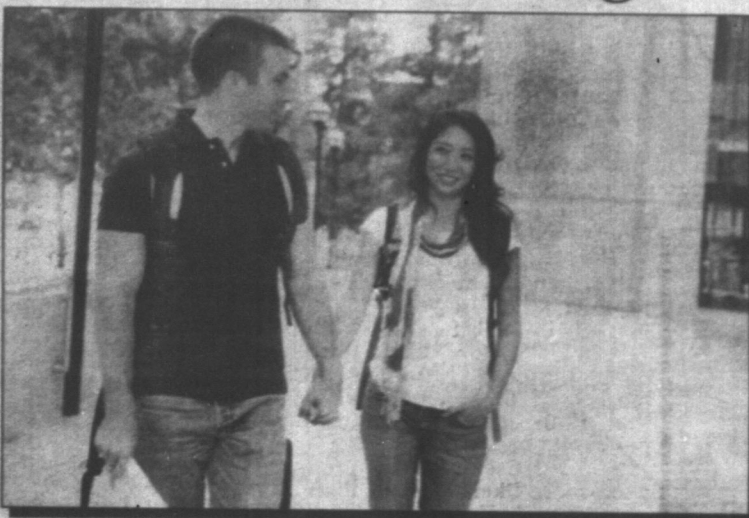
"The vast majority are entirely open to waiting on sex," Ross said. "Whether they do or not depends on which voices and influences around them are the strongest."

Among 16-17-year-olds, 16.1% of boys and 20.8% of girls had had intercourse in the previous month.

The study also asked teens about oral sex. Depending on the question asked, between 66% and 71% of 16-17-year-old boys and girls had never participated. For 14-15-year-olds, it was around 87% for both sexes who had never participated.

Jimmy Hester, co-founder of the True Love Waits movement and the coordinator of True Love Waits for LifeWay Church Resources, said the study confirms what he has seen.

"Our experiences with True Love Waits over the past 17 years have shown a willingness on the part of students to consider and adopt God's plan for sexual behavior outside the marriage relationship," Hester told BP. "Once they understand the reasons behind sexual abstinence until marriage, and recognize



the severe consequences when not practiced, most are willing to commit to it. The results of these types of reliable studies indicate trends toward better sexual behavior among students."

Ross said the data should impact what programs the federal government promotes. It should also encourage churches, he said.

"Congress and the administration cut all abstinence-centered program grants from the 2010 budget," Ross said. "As a citizen, that deeply concerns me and I will support candidates this fall that will take us in another direction, but as a youth leader I see this

as an opportunity for parents and churches to step into the gap. It is time for every pastor and every parent to ask, 'How long has it been since we saw precious teenagers standing in the altar of our church, making promises of purity to Almighty God, surrounded by the community of faith?'"

Ross added, "I am more concerned about churches that have moved away from a clear True Love Waits challenge every year than I am about funding shifts in Washington."

"For the children of believers, the clear voices of parents, youth leaders and the congregation carry far more weight than secular programs."



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Faith 'heresy' wrecking lives, Miss. evangelist says

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP and local reports) — Proponents of the Word of Faith movement teach a heresy that wrecks the lives of many suffering Christians, evangelist Justin Peters said during a series of lectures at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

Peters is a native Mississippian, a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary, and staff evangelist at First Church, Vicksburg.

"The burden that is being placed on people is almost unbearable, and it breaks my heart," said Peters, whose cerebral palsy prompted him to embrace the Word of Faith movement as a teenager.

"I get e-mails from people from all over the world almost on a daily basis now, telling me how they or one of their loved ones have been devastated by this movement."

Peters, who holds master of divinity and master of theology degrees from Southwestern, said the movement is known for its message of health and wealth, often called the prosperity gospel. Its teachers claim that no true Christian should be sick or poor, but if they find themselves in such circumstances, they will

have a quick recovery. Peters said Word of Faith teachers include Benny Hinn, Ken and Gloria Copeland, Joyce Meyer, T.D. Jakes and Joel Osteen.

"This movement does a great deal of harm to people," Peters said in his lectures Sept. 30-31 at Southwestern's Fort Worth, Texas, campus. "If you begin with the premise that it is always God's will to be physically healed, and a person prays for that healing for days, weeks, months, years, sometimes for decades, but the healing does not come, then the question must be asked, 'Whose fault is it?'"

The prosperity gospel always lays blame on the sick individual, who is thus accused of hidden sin, a lack of faith, or not being saved, Peters said. This attitude, he noted, exemplifies Word of Faith proponents' doctrine of "positive confession," that believers can "literally speak things into existence" or make their own "realities" through their words. With words, they can manipulate faith — viewed as a force or object — to heal the sick, bring prosperity, or control weather.

This doctrine, Peters said, resembles the secular movement called "The Secret," which boasts the support of Oprah Winfrey.

Behind it, however, are even greater heresies. According to Word of Faith teachers, Adam was created in the beginning as "an exact duplicate of God." Christians also are "little gods," and Jesus is not the only begotten Son of God. Also, by praying, Christians give God permission to intervene in their lives and in the world. Otherwise, God has no access to the world.

"One of the most fundamental problems of the Faith preachers," Peters said, "is they blur that line between God the Creator and us, His created. They demote God to

make Him look more human than He is, and in turn they deify man to make us look more like God than we really are."

While the Word of Faith movement dresses its doctrine in Christian apparel, Peters said it does not find its roots in orthodox Christianity: "The origins of the Word of Faith movement can be traced back directly to the metaphysical cults, such as Christian Science, New Age, new thought, Gnosticism, even some Kabbalah. So much of what you see on Christian television today is not Christian."

Looking back

10 years ago

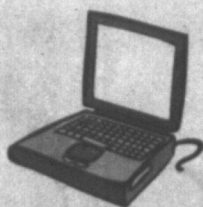
Southern Baptists respond to the terrorist attack on the USS Cole by mobilizing relief efforts to minister to the families of the sailors on board the ship. Reports indicate that two Mississippians were on board the ship and one was killed.

20 years ago

The staff of the Baptist Building in Jackson pause from their workday to dedicate a new prayer room, with an admonition from executive director Bill Causey that, "What takes place in this building must be heaven directed."

50 years ago

W.H. Mize retires as superintendent of the Baptist Orphanage in Jackson. On April 12, 1936, Mize became superintendent after serving as business manager since 1935.



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Big Alcohol takes aim at young people

Media watchers have complained for years about the alcohol industry's blatant campaign to market their products to children. Many of these media watchers have no particular religious affiliation; they just want what's best for the nation's children. From all indications, that's not what the alcohol industry wants.

The Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., has released the explosive results of yet another study that proves beyond a doubt what the alcohol industry is up to.

The study, titled Youth Exposure to Alcohol Advertising on Radio, 2006, analyzed 337,602 alcohol product advertisements in 28 of the largest radio markets in the U.S. The key findings:

- In 2006, more than a third of advertising placements for alcohol products in 28 of the largest radio markets (120,299 or 35.6%) were on programming that youth, ages 12-20, were more likely to hear on a per capita basis than adults.

- Advertisements on programming that youth were more likely to hear than adults accounted for more than half (58%) of youth exposure to alcohol advertising on the radio.

- Approximately one in twelve alcohol advertisements (27,682 or eight percent) were on programming with youth audience compositions greater than the alcohol industry's voluntary maximum of 30%, and 18 out of 143 brands placed 20% or more of their advertisements above that threshold.

- Twenty-six brands placed more than half of their advertisements on programming that youth were more likely to hear on a per capita basis than adults.

The alcohol pushers know what they are doing. "Despite competition from iPods, instant messaging, and the Internet,

radio remains a popular medium among youth," the study reports. "Ninety-one percent of teens listen to the radio weekly, while 65.5% listen to it every day. Comparing genders, 87.9% of males ages 12-17 are radio listeners, listening to an average of 11 hours and five minutes per week while 94% of females in this age group are tuned in, listening on average 14 hours per week.

One need not be a marketing executive to understand the gravity of those numbers. In the all-important youth demographic, it's a dream come true for the alcohol industry which, like the tobacco companies, must recruit new users to replace those who die from the effects of a lifetime of physical debasement from using their products.

"Although communities across the nation have made significant efforts to reduce youth access to alcohol, underage drinking remains a widespread and tragic public health problem," CAMY reports. By their senior year in high school, 45% of young people report drinking with the past 30 days, and 25% reported binge drinking of five or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks, CAMY states.

Anheuser-Busch Cos., Inc., of St. Louis, one of the largest pushers of alcoholic misery in the country, predictably dismissed the study in a statement quoted by Associated Press. "Preventing underage drinking is about preventing youth access to alcohol, not about what a teen does or doesn't hear on the radio," said company Vice-President Carol Clark.

Now, how's that for intellectual dishonesty? Clark says teens don't drink because of what they hear on the radio, while her company is a large and influential part of an industry that inarguably aims its radio advertising squarely at young people.

Well, which is it? They seem to want it both ways — but what they really want is our children. Will yours be next? Think about it.

GUEST OPINION:

School becomes curse-free zone

By Kelly Boggs
Alexandria, La.



The foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing," said George Washington, "is a vice so mean and low that every person of sense and character detests and despises it."

It seems the leadership of a public school in Albany, Or., agrees with America's first president on the subject of profanity.

Brent Belveal, in his first year as principal of South Albany High School, has enacted a ban on cursing. Penalties for violating the profanity policy range from in-school suspension to multi-day removal from school, depending on context.

One student was suspended because foul language was directed at a teacher.

"[It] became more than language as it escalated into a multiple-day suspension out-of-school for defiance-disrespectful behavior," Belveal told the Albany Democrat-Herald.

The ban was instituted because staff members told the new principal that profanity was a major problem on the campus. Belveal met with every class and outlined the policy and how it would be enforced.

Belveal indicated that part of the school's job was to prepare students for future job situations. Most employers, he said, do not tolerate foul language. "We're trying to help you learn to be productive employees," Belveal told students.

The staff, too, is included in the profanity ban. "It's not OK for us, either," Belveal said. Since the crackdown on lan-

guage began being enforced on Sept. 29, five students have run afoul of the new rules. South Albany has an enrollment of approximately 1,300 students.

It is a shame that a public school has to take measures to curb cursing. I believe the best place to police language is the home. However, disrespectful language should not be tolerated anywhere. Hence, South Albany is taking steps to address an obvious problem.

It has become clear that American popular culture has become far too crude.

Movies and television programs intended for general audiences once contained no profanity. Now you are hard pressed to find mass media that is void of crass content. Cursing, as a result, has trickled down and stained daily discourse. Language that was uttered only by tough-talking men is now routinely heard at the mall, the park and the public school.

Cursing has been around as long as communication itself, but until recently its frequent and public use has been

frowned upon. Once, those who flaunted vulgar words and phrases were considered to be rude, crude or socially inept — and sometimes all three.

South Albany's decision to crack down on cursing comes on the heels of a California student's efforts at starting a no-cussing club at his school. While in junior high school, McKay Hatch started a club to address the vulgar language that permeated his school.

"A lot of kids at my school, and some of my friends, would cuss and use dirty language all the time," Hatch said. "They did so much they didn't even realize they were doing it." When Hatch told his friends that the cursing bothered him, he said, "They were shocked."

Last year Hatch's efforts drew the media's attention and at least two California municipalities adopted "no-cussing weeks" to encourage the use of clean language.

Some would argue that words, even if they are vulgar, are just words and as such can't do harm. Words, however, convey thoughts and ideas. I sug-

gest that the unfettered use of profanity reveals at least three things about an individual.

One, it indicates a lack of control. A person that allows foul language into every conversation reveals a lack of discipline. If you can't control your vocabulary, what else can't you control?

Second, a person that relies on cursing to express himself reveals a lack of creativity. There are all manner of ways of expressing a variety of emotions without the use of profanity. A dictionary or thesaurus can help expand one's vocabulary.

Finally, the use of vulgar language displays a lack of respect for everyone exposed to it. If I have regard for those I am speaking to, I am going to address them by choosing my words wisely.

John Heisman, legendary football player and coach, once told his team, "Don't cuss. Don't argue with the officials. And don't lose the game." The man for whom the Heisman Trophy is named understood that cursing is helpful to no one. George Washington, McKay Hatch and the leaders of South Albany High School all agree. I only hope many more will embrace the same sentiment.

Boggs is a weekly columnist for Baptist Press and editor of the Baptist Message (www.baptistmessage.com), newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 21, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

ON THE CAMPUIS

DIRECTOR STORIES FROM MISSISSIPPI BSU FALL ACTIVITIES



LISA RAY

*Assistant Director
Gulf Coast, Gulfport Campus*

God has been at work in the students this month. I have seen students at our BSU considering summer missions that I would not have expected. Also, CSC, and particularly the speaker's messages, had a large impact on the students. New Christians are being discipled and encouraged. The leadership team is growing in number and in spiritual depth. Several strong Christians have stepped up the last few weeks and I cannot wait to see what happens in and through our BSU under their leadership. God is so faithful. September has really been about things taking shape. My prayer is that October will be about putting feet to what we believe!!

BEN MADDOX

Director, Mississippi College



The fall has been full of ministry opportunities to the incoming and returning students at MC. One highlight for the month was the Fall Retreat. We had a great group of students involved in the retreat. The returning students were very intentional in ministering to the transfer and freshmen students. Many of the new students commented about the helpfulness of the weekend. Because of the Fall Retreat many of the new students have really plugged into the BSU in the various ministry opportunities.



BRUCE BRADY

Director, Co-Lin

The highlight of the month has been how the Lord is already doing amazing things here on campus! At our BSU Kickoff we had seven students pray to receive Christ and the second week we had five more students saved! Needless to say, we are very excited to see what the rest of the semester holds!



TOM MCLAUGHLIN
Director Northwest

Highland Baptist of Senatobia, once again, hosted the NWCC BSU welcome back party with a cookout. The men on the Grill measuring wind direction and velocity for the placement of the grill (which would insure the perfectly grilled hamburger) and the ladies in the Kitchen! One of our regular cooks from Highland brought her very popular banana pudding and her always popular grandson, Jacob. While some of the guys were helping Ms Ruth with the pudding (such faithful guys!) Jacob latched on to the Ping-Pong® crew and stuck with them the rest of the evening. After the worship and praise time, Highland's pastor, Rev. Greg Hurt, stepped up to offer the blessing and share a word. The Word was on Salvation and how to know you are a Christian. When he gave the invitation two hands went up. One was 18 years old the other 7 years old. Bro. Greg met with Jacob and his father for a follow up to his decision. Jacob was baptized on his profession of faith in Jesus Christ the first Sunday in September at Highland Baptist Church in Senatobia! One hundred sixty students, Ultimate Frisbee®, hamburgers, hotdogs, 'nanna puddin' and two new Brothers in Christ! What a great way to begin any year!



WAYNE VANDIVER
Director, Northeast

A group of students was playing Ultimate Frisbee® one afternoon.

After playing for a while, they took a break. During the break, a freshman was talking to one of our sophomores who turned the conversation towards spiritual things. He had the chance to share the Gospel and this new student responded by accepting Christ as his personal Lord and Savior! The Discipleship Committee has arranged some one-on-one discipleship with him, and he plans to be baptized in a local Baptist church.

JOE LINA

*Assistant Director
Gulf Coast, Gautier Campus*



Without a doubt the main highlight has been a young lady that turned her life over to Christ! She is a new student and was overwhelmed to see the passion for Christ in the lives of several of the people in the BSU. This was exciting because it also gave me the opportunity to emphasize how much our lives are a witness and that the power of that witness is something that we cannot underestimate.



For more info: Contact the Collegiate Ministry Department at 1.800.748.1651.

Baptist Student Union is the Mississippi Baptist ministry to our college campuses provided by your Cooperative Program gifts.



TRACY MOSER

Director, Blue Mountain

Our council workshop was outstanding. It is always special to come back and hear the stories of the summer. More than half of our leadership team served as a summer missionary or at a camp. They worked hard with all of the beginning events. Our welcome party went well and folks had fun. Our first Prime time was with James Lewis and his son Marc.

COVERING MISSISSIPPI IN PRAYER

Jesus said in Luke 18:1, "Men ought always pray and not faint." The theme of the Mississippi Baptist Convention — and the theme for 2011 for all of Mississippi Baptists — is *Covering Mississippi in Prayer*. Simply stated, the goal is to enroll 10,000 men, women, boys, and girls to join in meeting God each morning before 8 a.m., for 365 days, and pray for Mississippi. Just imagine, across our state in every county and community and in multitudes of homes people will be spending time with God before 8 a.m. every morning.

There are so many more dimensions to this than just that groups of churches are having special prayer emphases. Associations are having prayer rallies and individuals are having prayer experiences with God long before we get to the kickoff of the New Year. In an effort to focus on this dynamic spiritual resource that is available to us, and to put in place opportunities for any and everyone to join in this experience, we are going to be having prayer rallies in every county seat in our state. Since some counties have two county seats, we will have 90 prayer rallies across our state where people from that entire area will come together to pray and to be encouraged to be a part of *Covering Mississippi in Prayer*.

These rallies will take place during January, February, and March, and you will be able to follow the schedule that is taking place week by week as we will meet, sometimes at a church or more often on the courthouse steps or in some public outdoor place, to pray for that county and for the other 81 counties in our state. I have arranged my schedule and committed the time to be a part of each one of these rallies. Some days there will be two or three and in some cases four rallies in one day as we move from place to place to focus our attention on God's people getting before the Lord and crying out to Him in prayer.

The first rally will take place on January 3 at 9 a.m. in Wilkinson County, at Woodville Baptist Church.

STAFF CHANGES

1. Faith Church, Hickory Flat, has called Gregg Thomas as pastor. Previously, Thomas served Tate Church, Corinth.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The reason we are starting there is because it was in that area that the first group of Baptists that we know anything about in Mississippi got together, asking God to come and lead them and to bless them in the beginning of the establishment of a church. Out of that prayer gathering was born Salem Baptist Church, the first Baptist church in our state.

From Woorville, the prayer rallies will continue and move all across the state in the enlistment of prayer warriors committing to pray everyday for Mississippi.

Each person who makes the commitment to be a prayer warrior will be given a pin in the shape of Mississippi, showing a person kneeling in prayer highlighted in gold, to wear as an indication that he/she is participating. This pin will also provide a point of conversation when people ask, "What is that?" They can invite them to be a part of praying for our state.

That said, I would like to point out to you three things that I think are vitally important to keep in mind.

First of all, it is not just about praying for Mississippi, but it is about Mississippians praying. There are no restrictions on praying beyond Mississippi. I am confident that God will take your prayer life to the ends of the earth, but this is where we live and it is the place where our influence can be felt the greatest. Mississippi can be a catalyst that God may raise up to bring revival across our nation. There are no exclusions; anyone who wants to be a part of this great army of prayer warriors can join.

Just think what could happen if 10,000 or even 20,000 people joined together asking God to touch our communities, our leaders, our churches, our pastors, and even to stir the souls of lost people. Our God promised us, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

We have joined together in other programs to accomplish things for our Lord, but this is not a program. This is our responding to meet with Him and Him promising to respond to us.

The second thing that I would point out is that it is not just about us getting into the presence of God, but it is allowing God to get into our lives. In an interview, one of the miners rescued in Chile after 69 days in mostly darkness said that before this, he was not a praying person but during those days, he learned to pray. In the desperation they were facing and the possibility of no one surviving, he learned to pray. During the interview, all he wanted to talk about was how God had touched his life and blessed them. Prayer is not one directional. While we lift our prayers up to God, He comes to us in prayer to give directions to us.

What if in our Sunday Schools, Bible Study groups, church services, and youth gatherings, we prayed not just to open or close a meeting but to talk to God about the needs in our lives and ask God what He would have us to do? While it may trans-

form a group into a local mission force, it also can shape individuals into living, breathing demonstrations of God's love wherever they go and whatever they do.

Third, it is not just about us asking but it about us becoming answers to prayer. In the encounter that Isaiah had with God in Isaiah 6, the Scripture says, "In the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and lifted up." Out of his need, emptiness, and grief, he came to the Lord. As he did, he began to see himself in the light of the glory of God. He knew that he was unclean, sinful, and unworthy. Only God could make a difference. The Lord sent a seraph, an angelic being, and with tongs, he removed a hot coal from the fire and touched his lips to cleanse him. Then God said, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" At that point, Isaiah became the answer to prayer and he responded, "Here am I. Send me!"

Not all of the time but clearly some of the time, we pray and ask God to do things, to make a difference, and to touch people's lives that literally He would do if we would be willing to do. It might be that we should never ask God to do anything that we are not willing to step up before His throne and say, "Here am I. Send me!"

What is it that you want God to do? Maybe even more important, what does God want you to do? Are you willing to become an answer to prayer? May God bless us day after day as all across our state we gather before His throne in prayer.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

MS. POSITIONS

RAWLS SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, Hattiesburg, Ms. has position open for secretary. Send resume to rodger.jackson@usm.edu or to Rawls Springs Baptist Church, Attn: Rodger Jackson, 55 Rawls Springs Road - Hattiesburg, Ms. 39402

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH is in need of: Part-Time Worship Leader (Minister of Music), and a Part-Time Youth Leader Interested Applicants can send resume to P.O. Box 4097, Meridian, MS. 39304 or call (601)482-6403.

GOSS BAPTIST CHURCH, MARION Assoc., is seeking a Minister of Youth. Experience working with youth and references required. Send resume to Goss Baptist Church, 20 Mark McArthur Drive, Columbia, MS. 39429 attn: Carolyn buckley.

GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST Church of Hatley, Mississippi is currently accepting resumes for a bi-vocational or part time Youth Minister. Please send resume (2 pages maximum), including references, to brodanny@msn.com. Please indicate "Resume" in subject line.

THE MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE of Star Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a Full-time Worship Leader/Associate Minister. Please send resumes to starbaptistresumes@gmail.com

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Clue: Q = C

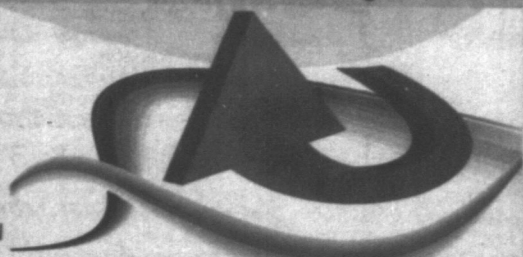
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Twenty-six: Sixteen

SUNDAY SCHOOL Growth Spiral Conference

November 16, 2010 • Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg • 9-11:30 a.m.

Target Audience:

- Pastor
- Minister of Education
- Sunday School Director



Led by Ken Marler

Ready! Fire! AIM?

Do you think sometime we get the order all wrong? That we shoot for targets in ministry without really knowing what we are aiming for? Maybe even firing out ministry projects just to hope that there is a target somewhere?

The Sunday School Growth Spiral is a tool to help your church aim for building an on-mission Sunday School organization, designed for evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship. The Growth Spiral plan will help any church diagnose their own church health, and aim for future growth. And it will help you find the target!



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- Teaching Units
- Ministry Touches
- Space
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- S.S. Leadership Meetings
- Worship Attendance
- Offerings
- Baptisms

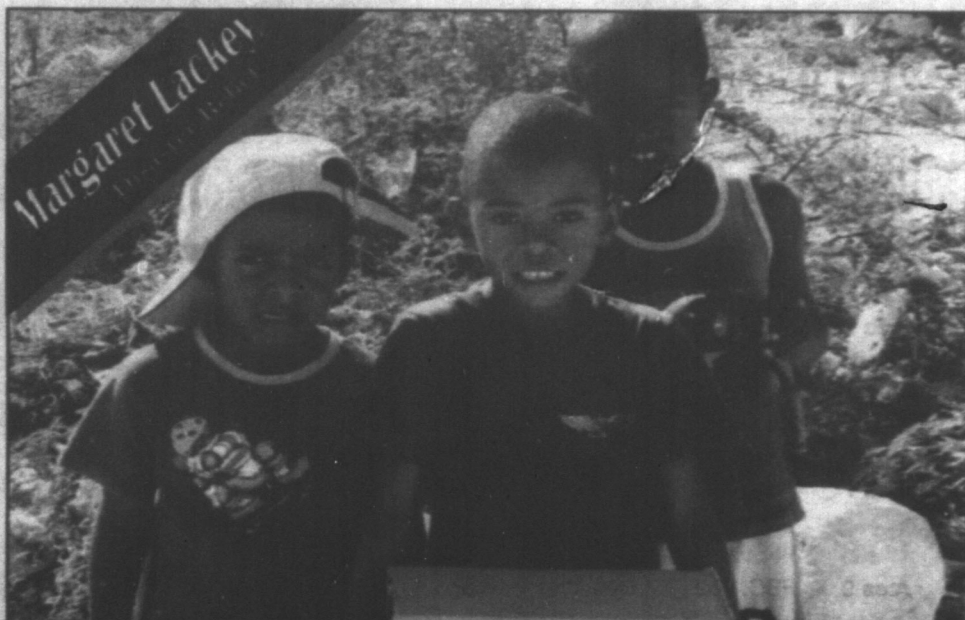
Register by November 1

Need more information?

Call:

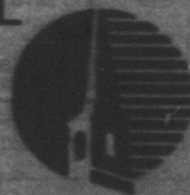
Sunday School Department

1.800.748.1651, ext. 291, or
601.292.3291.



When a devastating earthquake destroyed the country of Haiti in January, Margaret Lackey was at work meeting the needs of its people just weeks after the storm.

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TRAINING



February 7-9
2011

Lee County Baptist Association, Tupelo, Miss.

Cost: \$125

Early Bird Special: \$99 (by December 31, 2010)

Cost includes: materials, conference fees, Monday supper, Tuesday lunch and snacks

Training begins at 1 p.m. on February 7 and ends at 3 p.m. on February 9

Contact: Church-Minister Relations – Bruce Cappleman at bcappleman@mbcb.org or Pam May at mpmay@mbcb.org, or call 601-968-3800 or 800-748-1651 to register

November 8-10 Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville



Student Ministers Retreat

SPEAKERS:

Richard Ross, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Allen Jackson, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

WORSHIP LEADER:

John Blackwell, FBC, Olive Branch, Student Minister

A couple of break-out sessions will be available for spouses. Child care will be available during morning and afternoon sessions only by advance reservations.

For more info: 601-292-3283, 1-800-748-1651 or redwards@mbcb.org



November 1, 2010

Contact MS WMU for more info

**Baptist Women's
World Day Of Prayer**

2011 AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011 – 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

• Area 5 FBC, 431 N. State Street, Jackson, 39201 Wyndy South O-601-292-3272

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011 – 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

• Area 2 Harrisburg BC, 4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd. Mignon Williamson C-662-842-6917
Tupelo, 38801

• Area 4 Fairview BC, 127 Airline Rd., Columbus, 39702 Slater Murphy C-662-328-2924

• Area 6 Poplar Springs Dr. BC, 4032 Poplar Springs Dr. Michael Gibson C-601-485-5106
Meridian, 39305

• Area 7 FBC, 1700 Delaware Ave., McComb, 39648 Jane Wilkinson C-601-684-2971

Bruce Pruitt

• Area 8 Highland BC, 2513 N. 7th St., Laurel, 39440 Marilyn Huff H-601-763-8731

• Area 9 FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave., Pascagoula, 39567 Michaelle Harrison C-228-762-2343

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011 – 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

• Area 1 Longview Heights BC, 4501 Goodman Rd. Ada Cates C-662-895-1900
Olive Branch, 39654 Blake Krumalis

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2011 – 9:30 A.M. - NOON

• Area 3 Emmanuel BC, 245 Meadowbrook Rd. Barry Worrell C-662-226-5316
Grenada, 38901

• Area 3 North Greenwood BC, 615 Grand Blvd. Patricia Ethridge C-662-453-2801
Greenwood, 38930

• Area 8 Cartersville BC, 115 Cartersville Rd., Patal, 39465 Kristopher Smith C-601-584-9457

For more info, contact Wyndy South, Church Music Department, 601-292-3272 or wsouth@mbcb.org

STATE YOUNG MUSICIANS' CHORAL FESTIVAL

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Swor Auditorium, Clinton

April 2, 2011 8:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Registration begins February 1, 2011



Guest Conductor
Pamela
Vandewalker
Minister of Worship
Programming
and Creativity
Johnson Ferry BC
Marietta, Georgia

REQUIRED MUSIC for Festival

FROM YOUNG MUSICIANS SEMESTER 2

1. For the Lord is Good, Walker

2. Dare to Show the World We Care, Moore

FROM YOUNG MUSICIANS SEMESTER 2

3. God of My Life, Schram

The following anthems will be in stock at the LifeWay Christian Store in Jackson, by December 1, or you may order from your supplier.

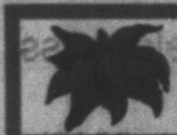
4. Rejoice and Sing, arr. Curry,
Choristers Guild, CGA 1195

5. Come, Celebrate God's Gift of
Music, Arr. Patterson, Choristers
Guild, CGA 1199

6. Sing a New Song, Arr. Pote,
Choristers Guild, CGA 1190*

*Choir leaders attending the festival are encouraged to order #6, Sing a New Song, and be prepared to sing with the children at the festival concert.

For information contact Wyndy South, wsouth@mbcb.org,
1-800-748-1651, ext. 272, statewide; locally, 601-292-3272.



The Suit Project

• What is the suit project?

For over 47 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in new work areas. Many of these pastors have no suit nor have the extra money to purchase one. By sending them a suit we are letting the pastors know that we care about them and that we support their work.

• What can I do?

Simply make a donation to the ministry. Each suit will cost \$135. This can be a special project for Men's Ministry groups, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, to WMU groups. For churches or individuals looking for a ministry that really touches someone's life, the Suit Project is the perfect choice.

• Where do I send my donation?

Make your check payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and designate your check to the Suit Project.

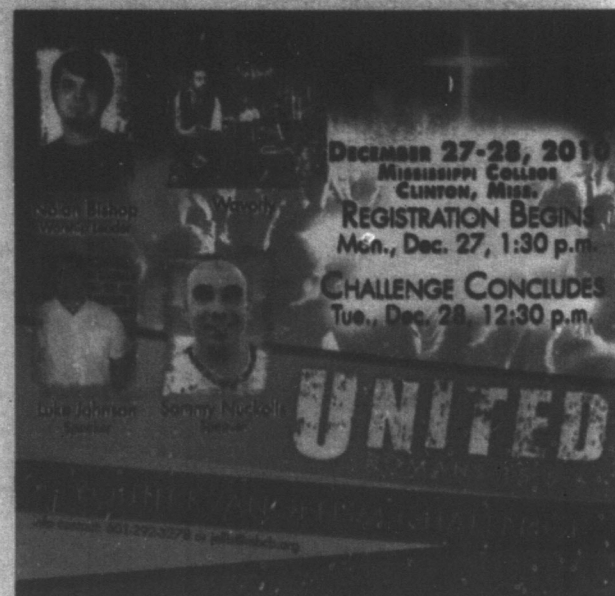
• Mail to:

Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530
(Questions? Call Deanna Vail, 601-292-3335 or 1-800-748-1651)

Pastors' Wives If funds are available, we will send a clothing gift certificate to the pastor's wife! Often they go without things that they want or need to support their husband's ministry. This is a wonderful way to show them that they are not forgotten and that the support they provide their husband is truly appreciated.

Merry Christmas

to pastors
in the Colorado Baptist
General Convention and
Utah/Idaho Southern
Baptist Convention



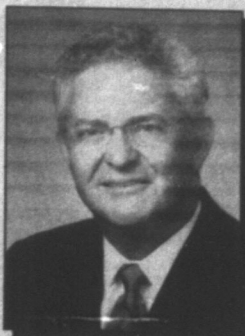
Pills and Polls

By Jimmy Porter
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.

Pills and polls have a lot in common. Probably ninety percent of the readers of this article take some sort of pill or pills. The pill reveals that something is wrong in the human body but it has the potential to make the situation better. The pill is an indicator but taken as prescribed, it can become part of the cure. But if the pill is left in its container and never taken, then it means absolutely nothing.

Polls, like pills, come with many different forms, definitions and implications. Poll may mean casting and registering of votes in an election. It can mean the place where you go vote and also the number of votes cast. There are other meanings that have nothing to do with elections such as trimming the wool on sheep, etc.

Many organizations will conduct a survey to gather information and opinions about a certain object, person, idea, or current event. This is also called a poll. During this midterm election year polls are being taken in every state and on every candidate who is running for governor or the United States House of



Porter

Representatives. The polls reveal public opinions about candidates and their performances. Polls are informative and helpful but they are useless if they are not acted upon. If a poll says my favorite candidate is leading by 9 points it means nothing unless I go to the poll and vote. Voting in an election year is just as vital to this country as taking prescribed medicine is to having a healthy body. Action on our part is necessary for pills or polls to be effective and helpful.

As a Christian it is our duty and privilege to vote. Byron Barlowe of Probe Ministries wrote, "It is both a sacred duty and privilege for Christians to serve as citizens who salt (preserve) and light (illuminate) our culture. We believers have a duty to vote our values. How else would we vote?"

It is my responsibility to take my Christian values to the polling both as I make my choices. I am to be a Christian citizen. "Christian citizenship is our expression of Christian values in public policy," states Phil Strickland of the Texas Christian Life Commission. How are we to do this? Some individuals have withdrawn from the culture while others have compromised and merged with the culture by giving in to worldly values. Others have followed the Biblical mandate to "be in the world but not of it."

Some may question, "Is there such a thing as Christian citizenship?" An article from The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission speaks to this question. In 1905 Mark Twain wrote, "Is there such a thing as Christian citizenship? No, but it could be created. The process would be quite simple, and not productive of hardship to any one. It will be conceded that every man's first duty is to God; it will also be conceded, and with strong emphasis, that a Christian's first duty is to God. It then follows, as a matter of course that it is his duty to carry his Christian code of morals to the polls and vote them. Whenever he shall do that, he will not find himself voting for an unclean man, a dishonest man.

Whenever a Christian votes, he votes against God or for Him, and he knows this quite well. God is an issue in every election; He is a candidate in the person of every clean nominee on every ticket; His purity and His approval are there, to be voted for or voted against, and no fealty [fidelity; obligation] to party can absolve His servant from his higher and more exacting fealty to Him; He takes precedence over party, duty to Him is above every claim of party."

November 2, 2010 demands your attention. You must go vote. Victory is claimed or lost in the polling booth and not in the polling surveys that gather people's opinions. If you do not go to the polls and vote you will probably need more pills before the next election.

The Christian Action Commission has placed a voter guide on its website, www.christianactioncommission.com, to help inform you about the beliefs of each candidate. This is extremely helpful and you can download and print as many as you need to pass out to friends, family and colleagues. See you at the polls on November 2, 2010!!!

The author can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or at jporter@christianaction.com.

JUDGEMENT HOUSE-WEB OF LIES

Tours for this 8 scene, walk-through drama begin every 15 minutes and last approximately 1 hour. Reservations for 8 or more are recommended but not required. Please call 601.845.1822 for reservations or more information.

Star Baptist Church, 301 Mangum Drive, Star, MS 39167

Wednesday, October 27th begins @ 6pm Thursday, October 28th begins @ 6pm
Friday, October 29th begins @ 6pm Saturday, October 30th begins @ 4pm
Sunday, October 31st begins @ 4pm

\$1 donation per person is requested.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

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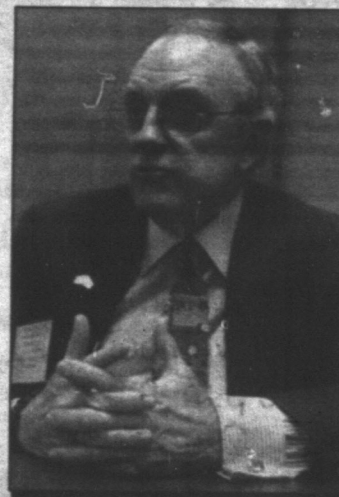
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Ridgeland, MS 39157

COLLEGE NEWS

Larry Drawdy received Mississippi College's Order of the Golden Arrow Award, one of the university's highest honors. The awards dinner was Oct. 15. The award salutes alumni or friends of MC who make outstanding achievements in their professions. Drawdy is a Mississippi Department of Education administrator.



Drawdy

Visit us online at www.mbc.org to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.

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February 7-16, 2011
\$3,299 from Jackson, MS
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Space is limited so

Call today for your color brochure & DVD.



RickHenson@aol.com 601-828-1360

Dr. Rick Henson, Pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church in Brandon invites you to join Evangelist Gary Bowlin Anniversary trip to Israel. After three days seeing the sights we journey into Jordan, to Mt. Nebo the Promised Land, then to Petra, City of prophecy. We then travel to Sea. We then enjoy two days in Jerusalem, ending at the Garden Tomb. You will be inspired on this Christian tour led by a Jewish guide who loves Jesus. Join us for this trip of a lifetime!



Hosted by Evangelist & Mrs. Gary Bowlin

Gary and Norma will host this their 30th trip to Israel. With over three decades hosting Holy Land trips, Gary & Norma assure you a safe & quality pilgrimage as you walk where Jesus walked. Experience counts. Space is limited. Go online or call today.

www.GaryBowlin.com 601-810-0810 or 601-276-7245

Pray this day for...

October 22 - November 11

"Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths: guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

PSALM 25:4-5

Pray for W.T. and his wife as they are facing transition to a new area and assignment in the south-east Asian country in which they serve.

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer (WMU Emphasis)

Remember missionaries all over the world as they struggle with language learning an understanding of their new culture.

Pray for our pastors today as they share the Word of God with their congregations.

PRAY FOR THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION and associated events

(1) MS Baptist Childrens Education Fellowship; (2) MBCB (100-member); (3) Ministers' Wives Conference; (4) Bivocational/Small Church Council Meeting & Ministers/Wives Supper; (4) Lay Missions Banquet

Pray for a team of **Mississippi Hispanic Baptists** who will be traveling to a country in North Africa to work in the area of evangelism, Oct. 30-Nov. 11.

Pray for the Student Minister's Retreat, Louisville (D&FM).

(1) Seminary Extension Directors Breakfast; (2) Chaplains' Fall Banquet; (3) Mississippi Baptist Convention, Day 1

Pray for a team led by **Southside Baptist Church in Yazoo City** as they travel to Mexico to be a part of a gospel distribution project called Operation Go, Oct. 30-Nov. 6.

Pray for two hostels for boys in Bangladesh. Baptists provide education and food for these boys allowing them educational opportunities otherwise unavailable in their rural communities.

(1) Mississippi Baptist Convention, Day 2; (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting

Pray for Baptist Building At Home Days. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom as plans are made for future ministry opportunities.

Pray for a lady in south-east Asia struggling to understand how Jesus is both God and man. Pray that the missionary will have insight on how to share with her friend and pray that God will continue to break down these barriers.

Pray for a team of Mississippi Baptists from several churches as they travel to Romania to lead out in medical missions, VBS and evangelism, Oct. 25-Nov. 4.

Pray for a team from **Tri-County Baptist Association** as they travel and participate in evangelistic outreach in Uruguay, Nov. 1-10.

Pray for believers who live in countries where they are persecuted for their faith. Pray that they will have supernatural courage to not deny Christ and love for their persecutors.

Pray for: (1) Mother/Daughter Overnight, Garaywa, 22nd-23rd, WMU; (2) a team in Mexico from **George/Greene Baptist Association** doing a gospel distribution project, Oct. 6-Nov. 23 called Operation Go.

Pray for three young men beginning their studies at Kyiv Theological Seminary in the area of church planting. These young men will be instrumental in helping the work in Ukraine.

Pray for Mississippi missionaries in east Asia and they have started a new semester of ESL classes in their country. Pray that they will have wisdom about what to teach.

Pray for the follow-up of 21 simultaneous revivals that took place recently in the North Coast Association led by Mississippi Baptist pastors and worship leaders.

Pray for Ray and Pat Spence as they serve in a country in southeast Asia. Pray especially for Pat as she is dealing with some health issues.

Pray for David Haskill, a church planter in Memphis, Indiana, who is facing health problems at this time.



WORLD BRIEFING A YEAR IN REVIEW 2010

2010 UTTERMOST SPORTS WORLD BRIEFING

**Monday
November 29
6 p.m.-9 p.m.
Garaywa**

**Dinner
will begin at 6
Program
will begin at 6:45**

**RSVP by phone
405-651-4877
or E-mail**

SendMe@UttermostSports.org

You are cordially invited to attend the 2010 Uttermost Sports World Briefing, in partnership with, and sponsored by, the Mississippi Sports Missions Network of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Be prepared for an evening of celebration, fellowship, and enlightenment as David-Andrew Fox, President of Uttermost Sports, and representatives from Mississippi share spiritual insights and personal stories of how the Lord has used SPORTS as a tool to storm Satan's strongholds and bring the Truth to those who have had no other access to the Gospel.

Encourage an MK with a card!

**12/02/09
MISS ELLA EPPS
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
American Peoples**

**12/21/06
MISS ELIZABETH ANN M.
Parents: C & A
Restricted**

**12/27/89
MR. LUCAS ALEXANDER
Parents: Mark & Karen
South America**

**12/28/05
MR. ZACHARY
Parents: D & D
Restricted**

**12/29/92
MISS LAURA LITTLE
Parents: Bob & Amy
West Africa**

**12/30/91
MR. BENJAMIN AUSTIN
Parents: Arnold & Susie
American Peoples**

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded.

Please send all to:

Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

HOUSE TOPS

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Case for Jesus:

Jesus the One and Only

John 3:16-18; 14:6-11; 1 Timothy 2:3-6

By Rick Henson

Tolerance is a popular word today. Our society demands tolerance, which means that you may believe whatever you wish, as long as you keep it to yourself. You may believe that Mighty Mouse is your savior and start a Mighty Mouse Church and the world will applaud your creativity and determination. If you, however, state that Jesus Christ is the one and only way to God, our society will not tolerate that kind of intolerance. In fact, intolerance that claims that Jesus is God will not be tolerated in our tolerant society.

Yet Jesus stated just that, and His words were recorded for all time. While many believers in the last two centuries attempted to downplay these claims

of Jesus, He said in John 14:6, "No man cometh unto the Father but by me," (KJV). The proposition at the end of that verse means through or as an avenue in the original New Testament language. So Jesus clearly believed and claimed that He was the only way to heaven.

"Only" describes Jesus well. He is God's only Son, according to John 3:14. The New Testament word for "only" in John 3:16 means unique. Last week we examined how Jesus is different from all the world's religious leaders in that He lives today. Romans 5:12 declares that death came to all men through sin. Jesus was unique in that He did not sin. Hebrews 4:5 reads that Jesus, "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin," (KJV).



Henson

The Bible claims that Jesus is God's only Son, the only one who did not sin, the only way to heaven, and the only one who conquered death. Jesus is still your only way to salvation and eternity in heaven.

God desires that all people are saved. 1 Timothy 2:3-6 states, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time," (KJV).

Jesus is God's only Son. He is our only way to salvation. He is the only one who did not sin and conquered death, and He is our only mediator with the Father. According to 1 John 2:1-2, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the

Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world," (KJV). The word propitiation is the Greek word for a sin offering.

All have sinned, according to Romans 3:23. When Christ died on the cross and arose from the dead, however, God made Jesus the only judge of all people. John 3:18 reads, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God," (KJV). While many reject this teaching, the bible is clear: we are condemned for not believing in Jesus. Next week we will examine what it means to believe in Jesus.

God's offer of salvation through Jesus is the heart of the gospel. We cannot save ourselves, and all religions attempt to appease God. God, however, paid for all sins through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. All who believe in Him will not perish but have

eternal life. Hebrews 10:10 reads, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all," (KJV).

Galatians 3:13 reads, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us," (KJV). The prophet Zechariah, who waited at the temple until he saw baby Jesus said in Luke 1:68, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people," (KJV). When Jesus died on the cross, He redeemed us from the curse. Redemption was how an ancient slave was set free. When a slave was for sale, if anyone paid his or her price, and granted the slave freedom, they were redeemed. Jesus paid the price of our slavery and then granted us freedom. No other religious leader could grant redemption, since each was himself enslaved by sin. Only sinless Jesus offers redemption to any who will call on His name.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Being Different

Ephesians 4:17-32

By Melleen Moore

The lesson title, "Being Different" suggests a contrast of the unbeliever and the believer. Terms like being set apart, standing firm, and speaking boldly could describe the believer's thinking and action causing others to see the difference. Our lesson divisions are uniquely titled from hymns that tell the story of Jesus echoing Paul's desire for believers.

Satisfied with Jesus

Ephesians 4: 17-19

"Therefore" is used as a connection from previous thoughts to what is ahead. Paul is guiding the believers to remember what Jesus has done for them and then to consider their response to Jesus. A question stated in the refrain of the hymn "Satisfied with Jesus" should cause a self examination by the believer - "Is my Master satisfied with me?" (Grace Maxwell, 1904) There are

four distinctive areas about the believer's walk being different. The first is the mind-thinking - "futility of their thoughts" (Ephesians 4:17, HCSB).

Believers are to guard against being unproductive, and mindless in thought. The second area is described as "darkened in understanding" (Ephesians 4:18, HCSB). Paul is speaking of being separated from God because of ignorance which has hardened their hearts. The third area is being morally insensitive, described in scripture as callous. Callous carries the idea of being petrified as wood that has turned to rock and can not be easily penetrated. The fourth area is the practice of sexual immorality "of every kind of impurity with a desire for more and more" (Ephesians 4: 19, HCSB). This condition doesn't care that ones behavior shocks or disrespects other people.



Moore

by Jesus because He is the truth. Three actions are expected of the believer in response to being saved. As a reminder from the past, he states "You took off your former way of life" (Ephesians 4:22, HCSB). In the present, "you are being renewed in the spirit" (Ephesians 4:23, HCSB) and you will face the future as "you put on the new man" (Ephesians 4: 24, HCSB). It is sheer joy knowing we were created in the likeness of God. But Paul adds another joy reminding the believers of the righteousness and purity of truth that comes only from God. The refrain of the division song title states this joy so well. "Saved by His power divine, Saved to new life sublime! Life now is sweet

Saved, Saved

Ephesians 4: 20-24

Paul plainly says you did not learn about Jesus from the thoughts and actions of the unbeliever such as the four just mentioned. An assumption is made that the believers had heard from and were taught

and my joy is complete, For I'm saved, saved, saved!" (Jack Scholfield, 1911)

Since I Have Been Redeemed

Ephesians 4: 25-29

Paul presents a "do's and don'ts" list for believers. Living the words of our division song title "Since I Have Been Redeemed" (Edwin Excell, 1884) a difference can be seen in the thoughts and actions of the believer. Before dealing with the list, let's note the idea of "because we are members of one another" Ephesians 4:25, HCSB). You'll remember Paul's words on the unity in the church stating "fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household" (Ephesians 2:19, HCSB). We influence each other in thoughts and actions. A paraphrase of the "do's and don'ts" list may look like this: Do speak the truth, Do be angry but sin not, Don't let the sun disappear when angry, Don't let the Devil in, Don't steal, Do honest work, Do share with others, Don't talk rotten, Do speak good. (Paraphrase of Ephesians 4:25-29, HCSB)

Search Me, O God

Ephesians 4:30-32

Paul reminds the believers again to be different reminding them of the Holy Spirit living within their heart. His instruction "don't grieve God's Holy Spirit" points our thoughts to the sorrow and shame that our actions cause. He names six such actions to be removed, bitterness—resentful; anger—rage; wrath—fury; insult—slur; slander—defame. Paul, as if he missed something, adds wickedness which sums up the previous actions in one word. These instructions close with the positive image of God's nature of kindness, compassion and forgiveness. A verse from the division song title could be a believer's prayer to live differently "in Christ". "Search me, O God, and know my heart today; try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray. See if there be some wicked way in me; cleanse me from every sin and set me free." (J. Edwin Orr, 1936)

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



3. Robertson ordination



4. Varner ordination

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS



3. First Church, Water Valley

1. **Southside Church, Vicksburg:** Revival, Oct. 31 - Nov. 5; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Harvey Reeves, speaker.

2. **Salem Church, Walthall:** Homecoming, Oct. 24, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Johnnie Sykes, speaker.

3. **First Church, Water Valley,** celebrated their 150th anniversary Oct. 10, with former pastors and staff members participating. Other highlights included a history of the church, continental breakfast, and lunch. Shown are past and present pastors and staff.

4. **Sylvarena Church, Wesson:** Revival, Oct. 24 - 27; services, 6:30 p.m. nightly, followed by covered dish meal; Tom McCormick, speaker; Ken Hedgepeth, music.

5. **Macedonia Church, Meridian:** 150th anniversary, Nov. 14; services, 11 a.m., followed by noon meal; Danny Moss, speaker; Virgil Waters, pastor; Paul Bird, minister of music.

6. **Ted Church, Smith County:** Revival, Nov. 3 - 5; Matt Pittman, speaker; Charlie McNeil, pastor/music; Sharon Brown, pianist.

7. **Georgetown Church, Georgetown:** Homecoming, Oct. 31; Mike Dubose, speaker.

8. **Holly Church, Corinth:** Revival, Oct. 31 - Nov. 3; Sun., 8:45, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. Wed., 7 p.m.; Bert Harper, speaker; Brian Eads, music; John Boler, pastor.

9. **County Line Church, Crystal Springs:** Revival, Oct. 21 - 23, 7 p.m.; Brad Moak, Van Windom and Sherman Rice, speakers.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. **First Church, Belzoni,** is hosting a family life conference Nov. 11, 7 p.m., with sessions on marriage enrichment and Christian parenting. Sponsored by the Humphreys Association and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Free.

2. **Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg,** is hosting a trunk or treat Oct. 30, 5 p.m., with hot dogs and snacks.

3. **Goss Church, Columbia,** ordained Dewayne Robertson as deacon Sept. 12. Shown are pastor Mark McArthur, Robertson, and Kristie Robertson.

4. **Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie,** recently ordained Gary Varner, Jr., as deacon. Shown are Vic Bowman, Tim Robertson, Varner, and pastor John Vaughn.

5. **Ackerman Church, Ackerman,** recognized Betty Sue Adams for 50 years of service as church organist Sept. 26. She was presented a gift of appreciation and lunch.

6. The children's choir of **Goodwater Church, Enterprise,** presented a musical program, *I Am a Promise*, Aug. 29. Shown are the participants.

7. **Mt. Horeb Church, Collins,** held a fall women's conference Sept. 25 with Billie Remson, author of the *Bluebird Hill* book series, as guest speaker. Shown are the participants.

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5. Adams



6. Goodwater Church, Enterprise



7. Mt. Horeb Church, Collins

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Depart Wednesday, May 11, 2011 for Cairo, Egypt. Tour includes a full day excursion to the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. Next, transfer to Memphis and Sakara to the Step Pyramid. Travel to Alexandria, visit the Catacombs of Kom ash-Shuqqafa, Pompey Pillar, Roman Amphitheater, and Alexandria's Library. Fly to Amman, Jordan. Visit Petra via Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Jordan Valley, Kerak Castle, Corinthian Tombs (Treasury); cross into Israel from Agava crossing and drive to The Dead Sea for afternoon float. On drive to Jerusalem, visit Massada Museum, Qumran, and Ahava Factory. On day 10, tour the old city of Jerusalem. On day 11, enjoy a morning tour of new city of Jerusalem; and that afternoon travel to Bethlehem for sightseeing, including Shepherd's Field. Next, visit Megiddo, Bet She'an and Tiberias (three nights). Cruise the Sea of Galilee. Then visit Haifa and Tel Aviv before flying home. This will be Rev. Williams' 7th YMT trip as a Baptist Chaplain. He is currently Interim Pastor of The First Baptist Church of Durant, Mississippi. *Per person, double occupancy. Airfare is extra.

For information, reservations, brochure, and letter from Rev. Billy Williams, with his phone number, call 7 Days a Week:

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NAMB's Ezell: eliminate young/old 'credibility gap'

Part two of a two-part series

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Following is an interview of Kevin Ezell, the new president of Southern Baptists' North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga. The interview was conducted by former Mississippi pastor J. Gerald Harris, currently editor of The Christian Index, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Q: First and foremost, NAMB is Southern Baptists' missionary sending agency for the United States and Canada. In fact, NAMB's first ministry assignment is "to assist churches by the appointment and support of missionaries in the United States and Canada," while its second directive is "to assist churches in the ministry of evangelism," and its third directive is "to assist churches in the establishment of new congregations."

You will serve as the agency's primary fundraiser — especially for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering — and speaker for missionary commissioning services. Apart from the answer you gave earlier to a theoretical situation, do you think we need more missionaries, or fewer?

A: I think we need as many effective missionaries as we can possibly get, but I am not as concerned about quantity as I am effectiveness. We will start as many churches and put out as many missionaries as we have funds available. We are in the process now of reallocating funds and shifting monies internally to do that. We are not here to pull back, but to push forward and we will do that.

I didn't come here to go out and beg churches to just give. We are going to provide such a compelling vision and such an effective strategy that they are going to want to give. They are giving and we are competing for dollars, but we want to do something that people can believe in.

Take Annie Armstrong. We receive more than \$50 million in the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. We can't back up. There is no reason why that can't be \$100 million dollars if we provide a compelling vision and effective strategy. I know I keep saying that, but that is the missing part [of the NAMB formula].

People are not going to give just because their grandparents did. We have a credibility gap; I don't know if we all understand that, but the younger the age of the minister the larger that credibility gap is. We must erase that gap so that people will believe in what we are doing.

I believe we can do that, but we must grab those people who have a rotary dial phone and the people in the SBC who use Twitter and try to get them together. I tried to do that in the Pastors' Conference. I tried to use people from two extremes to show that if we work together we can move the ball down the field

Q: During the interim and between presidents, NAMB's trustee chairman said that Southern Baptists should have "a singular world mission agency" and "the duplication of properties, personnel, and programs" is not good stewardship. The task force seriously considered that option but backed away from that direction. However, much of what the task force did leveled the playing field between NAMB and the IMB.

There are many who believe those changes were intentional to pave the way for merging the two agencies. How do you feel about Southern Baptists having one missions agency, and do you see NAMB existing as a separate entity in five or 10 years?

A: I see NAMB existing as a separate entity. I think we are going to provide a compelling vision, but at the same time I am a servant of the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBC will be the ultimate determiner of that.

Q: The Cooperative Program seems to be the one thing that has held our convention together for 85 years — through the Great Depression, one world war, and the Conservative Resurgence. We know that CP giving has declined in recent years as churches build larger and more impressive sanctuaries, keeping more funds at home.

Some think the idea of celebrating Great Commission Giving [outside of the CP channel] will further weaken the CP and create an independent spirit of giving among our churches. If that happens, are we not back to a societal method of giving? If the one thing that has held us together all these years is diminished, what will happen to our convention?

A: I don't see that happening. When people see a compelling vision I think they will give more. We have got to penetrate the lostness and get our people excited about that. We are going to let Southern Baptists know what we do. They may be asking, "What is a NAMB?" We are going to tell them.

Casting a compelling vision is more effective than begging the people for money. By casting this vision, we will encourage people to give to the Cooperative Program. We have drifted into a sea of complacency by thinking everyone knows who we are and what we do. There is a whole generation of people out there who have no idea what our initials stand for. We have got to reassure our base and educate our people as to who we are.

I taught a class at Southern Seminary to help the students understand who we are as Southern Baptists. It is incredible how many of them had no idea about our convention, and they came from Southern Baptist churches. We have a whole generation who do not understand

at all, so when I am out there urging people to penetrate the lostness, I see no boundaries.

I am just saying that the Cooperative Program will improve when they see a compelling vision. If people are confident that the money is being used wisely and for an effective strategy, then they are going to give to the CP.

Q: It is strange to me that nothing was mentioned in the GCR Task Force report about our six seminaries. I noticed that Highview gave \$158,000 to Southern Seminary last year. Is seminary support a model other churches should follow, or do you see some of the money that NAMB receives being funneled to our seminaries so that they can assist in the church planting movement, which you have stated as a priority?

A: That money was given for benevolent purposes for students in need. I don't see NAMB providing the seminaries funds for church planting.

Q: You have been [Southern Seminary president] Al Mohler's pastor and he has often preached in your church. Some want to know if you are a Five Point Calvinist and if not, why would you have a Five Point Calvinist preach in your church? Would that not present a mixed message to the members of your congregation?

A: No, not at all and our people know of the theological tension there, but to pretend like something doesn't exist is unhealthy. I am not a Five Point Calvinist, but at the same time I don't feel like they are contaminated — and I am not afraid of Five Point Calvinists.

Q: When Jonathan Akin of Baptist 21 interviewed you in late September, you mentioned disaster relief and the chaplaincy ministry as two of NAMB's strengths, but neither of these truly require much funding. States provide disaster relief personnel and NAMB only coordinates their work, and NAMB only endorses chaplains and does not pay their salaries as missionaries. Have you not seen NAMB as a champion of evangelism and church planting in the past several years?

A: Evangelism and church planting is a dual track, and when I think of church planting I think of evangelism. GPS [the national God's Plan for Sharing evangelistic outreach] is the tool we are going to use for evangelism. We want to be strongly evangelistic, but I have talked more about church planting because that is the mandate given to us by the Southern Baptist Convention [through the adoption of the GCR Task Force report]. Evangelism is a fundamental part of all we do.

I think our GPS is a very effective way of doing that and



Ezell

we are only one year into a 10-year emphasis. I have no intention of backing up on that. I have been talking to Thomas Hammond, who is overseeing that effort, and we want to move full steam ahead. We are going to put the accelerator to God's Plan for Sharing.

If someone walked into my office and said, "Kevin, you are the president of the North American Mission Board. Over the next 10 years I want to give you a billion dollars and I want you to tell me what you are going to do with it — a billion. How would I answer that question? The people of the SBC ask it every 10 years."

I'll be 58 years old in 10 years and I will have a lot of explaining to do. If we look to the past, there has been a billion dollars given to this agency in the last 10 years. Are we pleased with what has been done with that money? Do you really want more of the same?

You can take your shots at me. I may not fit your credentials or critique and I may not have the resume that some prefer, but I will take ownership of the next decade. We've got some work to do.

Q: In a related question, how do you see the value of NAMB's national evangelism strategy, God's Plan for Sharing?

A: I am behind that wholeheartedly. I plan to add to that flame.

Q: I believe I read that one of the seven churches you helped start was a part of the Acts 29 Network of churches. Do you expect to partner with the Acts 29 Network in your church planting movement? I understand they are targeting Georgia for their church planting efforts. How do you feel about that?

A: The Acts 29 Network doesn't plant churches. I think you have to be in existence for a year and show certain credentials in order to qualify as an Acts 29 church. That is why their success rate is so high because it is like joining the Willow Creek Association. The church that we planted that became a part of the Acts 29 Network only did that recently and the pastor made that decision on his own.

Our missions pastor checks on our church planters monthly and the pastor of this church never mentioned that he had become a part of the Acts 29 Network, and we are correcting that. I have no plans to partner with the Acts 29 Network to plant churches.

Q: NAMB works in an ethnically diverse world but its staff remains largely Anglo. As you bring in new staff, will you aggressively seek to build a more ethnically diverse workforce? In the past, philosophical agreement has been promised but follow-through has been weak.

A: I am trying to surround myself with the most capable people I can find and that goes from senior leadership on down. We are going to aggressively look for people like that. There are stallions out there who don't have a platform, but who would serve Baptists well. There will be no geographical or racial barriers when we seek new employees.

I think sometimes we have taken our very best church planters and brought them to Alpharetta [at NAMB's headquarters] and given them the job of strategizing when we should be capitalizing on their church planting experience [right where they are].